

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

I also note that "News Central" at Sinclair includes the daily The Point commentary by Mark Hyman who has wrongly characterized John Kerry's service in the Navy and Navy reserve and is a continual daily harangue from Hyman and his superiors ultra-conservative viewpoint. This should not be allowed to be included in a news program.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. I would hope that each of Sinclair's 62 licenses are subjected to rigorous review to ensure that they serve the public interest.

Thank you.

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